AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 57, 58, 63, and 64, amend claims 32, and rewrite claim 35, as follows.

A complete listing of pending claims is provided below.

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A system for treating a target region in tissue beneath a tissue surface, said system comprising:

a probe having a distal end adapted to be positioned beneath the tissue surface ~~to~~ at a site in the tissue;

a plurality of electrodes deployable from the distal end of the probe to span a region of tissue proximate the target region; and

a cover removably attachable to the probe and adapted ~~to span an area of~~ for placement on the tissue surface over the target region.

33. (Original) A system as in claim 32, wherein the cover has a generally flat face.

34. (Original) A system as in claim 32, wherein the cover has an area in the range from 2 cm^2 to 10 cm^2.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A system as in claim 32~~ A system for treating a target region in tissue beneath a tissue surface, said system comprising:

a probe having a distal end adapted to be positioned beneath the tissue surface at a site in the tissue;

a plurality of electrodes deployable from the distal end of the probe to span a region of tissue at or near the target region; and

a cover removably attachable to the probe and adapted to span an area of the tissue surface over the target region, wherein the cover comprises a surface electrode including a support having an electrode face and an electrically and/or thermally insulated face opposite to the electrode face.

36. (Original) A system as in claim 35, wherein the surface electrode comprises a plurality of tissue-penetrating elements on the electrode face.

37. (Original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the surface electrodes comprises from 4 to 16 tissue-penetrating elements.

38. (Original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the tissue-penetrating elements are pins having a diameter in the range from 1 mm to 3 mm and a depth from the electrode face in the range from 3 mm to 10 mm.

39. (Original) A system as in claim 32, further comprising a connector on the cover which removably attaches said electrode to the probe.

40. (Original) A system as in claim 32, further comprising a connector on the cover which is selectively attachable at different axial positions along the probe.

41. (Original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the surface electrode is adapted to mechanically couple to the probe, wherein the plurality of electrodes and surface electrodes are electrically coupled for monopolar operation.

42. (Original) A system as in claim 41, wherein the surface electrode is electrically coupled to the probe electrodes when the surface electrode is mounted on the probe.

43. (Original) A system as in claim 41, wherein the surface electrode is electrically isolated from the probe electrodes when the surface electrode is mounted on the probe.

44. (Original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the surface electrode is adapted to mechanically couple to the probe, wherein the plurality of electrodes remain electrically isolated from the surface electrode for bipolar operation.

45. (Original) A system as in claim 32, wherein the probe comprises:

a cannula having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending to at least the distal end, and wherein the plurality of electrodes are resilient and disposed in the cannula lumen to reciprocate between a proximally retracted position wherein all electrodes are radially constrained within the lumen and a distally extended position wherein all electrodes deploy radially outwardly, said plurality including at least three electrodes.

46. (Original) A system as in claim 45, wherein at least some of the electrodes are shaped so that they assume an outwardly everted configuration as they are extended distally into tissue from the distal end of the cannula.

47. (Original) A system as in claim 45, further comprising a rod structure reciprocatably received in cannula lumen, wherein the electrodes are secured at a distal end of the rod in an equally spaced-apart pattern.

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48. (Original) A system as in claim 45, wherein the cannula has a tissue-penetrating member at its distal end to permit advancement of the cannula through tissue.

49. (Original) A system as in claim 45, further comprising a stylet reciprocatably received in the cannula lumen, wherein the stylet may be used for initially positioning the cannula in tissue and thereafter exchanged with the electrodes.

50. (Original) A system as in claim 45, wherein the cannula has a length in the range from 5 cm to 30 cm and an outer diameter in the range from 1 mm to 5 mm.

51. (Original) A system as in claim 45, wherein the electrodes deploy outwardly to a radius in the range from 0.5 cm to 3 cm when fully distally extended from the cannula.

52. (Original) A system as in claim 45, wherein the plurality includes at least five electrodes.

53. (Original) A system as in claim 45, wherein the plurality includes at least eight electrodes.

54. (Original) A system as in claim 45, wherein the plurality includes at least ten electrodes.

55. (Original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the active areas of the first electrode array and the second electrode are approximately equal and the first electrode array and second electrode are electrically isolated.

56-64. (Canceled)